**COURSE SYLLABUS  
Honors English Language Arts Grade 8  
2017 – 2018  
Leslie Graham**  
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**Course Description**Eighth grade English develops student skills in the areas of reading literature, reading information, speaking and listening, writing, and proper language usage. Students will be expected to talk, write, investigate, read, and listen daily. I strive to show students how reading and writing can help them achieve their personal life goals.

**Course Objectives & Standards**Mountain Gap’s ELA department utilizes EL Education for its curriculum. Each quarter students will be expected to read one novel and selected texts that have been paired with the novel. Each quarter we will complete one module that has three units. Students will be provided with a copy of the text. Students may choose to purchase their own copy of the book if they want to mark text and take notes in the book. If students do not want to purchase their own book, they can use sticky notes to flag pages and make annotations. This will help with preparing for assessments and writing assignments.

**Students are expected to read assigned pages outside of the classroom and come to class prepared for discussion, analysis, and writing activities.**

**Course Expectations**  
Students are expected to comprehend what they read, compare it to other texts, relate it to prior knowledge, reflect on and react to the content, and communicate newly developed thoughts through writing, speaking, and listening. Students are also expected to develop self-advocacy skills; they should come to me for help when needed and communicate their struggles, academic or other.

**Materials**Each day the students are expected to bring loose leaf paper, a pencil, their charged laptop, their assigned novel, and EL workbook to class. Ear buds may be needed from time to time for some class assignments. When completing handwritten assignments, students should use pencil. **Students should always carry one book for leisure reading; this book is in addition to the assigned text.** Students may request to go to the library any time there is independent work/reading time. I also have a class library where books are available for check out. I allow students to carry and use eReaders in my classroom. Anyone using a device for reasons other than reading will lose this privilege. Cell phones are not allowed even if they have reading apps.

It is always beneficial to have a flash drive. If students save important work on their flash drive, they will not lose their work if their laptop crashes.

**Weighting of Grades**Grades are weighted according to the following district requirements:

* Assessments are 60% of the total class grade.  
  Items that are considered assessments are projects, tests, and major writing assignments.
* Classwork/Homework is 40% of the total class grade.  
  Students will have a **maximum** of twenty homework checks per quarter. Everyone begins each quarter with a 100 for this grade. Each time a student shows up unprepared five points will be deducted from the homework grade. Homework checks are not based on accuracy; students receive full credit if they attempt the work and make corrections as we review.

**All class assignments and assessments are posted on Edmodo. Please, use the Edmodo Planner!**

**Late Work**Late work is accepted. I prefer students master course objectives rather than give up if work isn’t completed on time. Late work is graded the same as work turned in on time, but five points will be deducted for each day the work is late. For example, if a student earns a 90 on an assignment but it is three days late, a 75 will be entered in the grade book.

Students are not penalized for late work due to excused absences.

**Accelerated Reader**AR is not a component of the English grade, but it is a great way to complete reading practice and earn rewards Mountain Gap School maintains a store where AR points can be spent on prizes.

Each quarter of school students will have an AR goal. This goal is based on their most recent STAR Reading test, reading for thirty minutes per day five days per week, and a comprehension score of 85% or higher on each quiz. **If students achieve their goal AND read books in MULTIPLE GENRES, they may attend the quarterly AR celebration.**

**Plagiarism**Deliberate plagiarism is claiming, indicating, or implying that the ideas, sentences, or words of another are one’s own. It includes copying the work of another, or following the work of another as a guide to ideas and expression that are then presented as one’s own (i.e. copy and paste or writing from any website, book, article, etc). **Deliberate plagiarism will result in a zero on an assignment.**  
  
Accidental plagiarism is the improper handling of quotations and paraphrased information without a deliberate attempt to deceive. If the plagiarism is accidental, the student may correct and rewrite the paper or be penalized one letter grade.

**Communication**Students are expected to communicate with me independently. This is very important in regards to absences. Students should approach me and say, “I was absent yesterday. What did I miss?” They can always check assignments ahead of time by looking at their Edmodo calendar. I will make myself available for students who request additional support whether it is due to a difficult standard or simply catching up from an absence.

For parents, email is the quickest way to reach me if needed. My planning period is during fifth period, and this is the only time that calls will be put through to my classroom. Conferences may be scheduled by me (difficulty in English), by the grade level team (difficulty in multiple classes), or at the request of parent.  
  
**Support**I am available to assist students who need help before school and during fifth period. Afternoons are difficult for me, but I can help in the afternoon if it is arranged well in advance. Some days I am available during eighth period; students simply need to ask. Support is provided per request of student or parent in addition to the requests of the teacher.

**Behavior**Students will follow the Secondary Behavioral Learning Guide put forth by the district.

Please sign and return this page only. By signing this, you are acknowledging that you have read and understand the above mentioned guidelines. It also helps me communicate with you.

Student Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact (circle one): email phone

Email address or phone number (please print neatly):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please add comments below if you feel there is something more I need to know about your child.